

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method comprising:
2 receiving first multimedia content over a first communication channel;
3 receiving second multimedia content over a second communication
4 channel, said second communication channel being incompatible with said first
5 communication channel; and
6 distributing said first and second multimedia content to a plurality of
7 multimedia nodes over a local multimedia network responsive to requests from
8 said multimedia nodes for said first and second multimedia content.

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1 2. The method as in claim 1 wherein said first communication channel is
2 a broadcast channel.

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1 3. The method as in claim 2 wherein said second communication
2 channel is a packet-switched channel.

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1 4. The method as in claim 3 wherein said packet-switched channel is a
2 TCP/IP channel provided by digital subscriber line ("DSL").

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1 5. The method as in claim 3 wherein said packet-switched channel is a
2 TCP/IP channel provided by a cable modem connection.

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1 6. The method as in claim 2 wherein said broadcast channel is a
2 broadcast cable channel.

1 7. The method as in claim 6 wherein said second channel is a digital
2 satellite channel.

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1 8. The method as in claim 1 wherein said local multimedia network is a
2 wireless network.

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1 9. The method as in claim 8 wherein said local multimedia network is a
2 real-time network.

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1 10. The method as in claim 8 wherein said local multimedia network is
2 comprised of a wireless portion and a terrestrial portion.

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1 11. The method as in claim 1 further comprising:
2 storing said first multimedia content on a storage device for subsequent
3 distribution to said multimedia nodes.

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1 12. The method as in claim 1 further comprising:
2 receiving audio over a public switched telephone network; and
3 transmitting said audio to one or more of said multimedia nodes.

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1 13. The method as in claim 12 further comprising:
2 storing said audio on a storage device for subsequent distribution to one
3 or more of said multimedia nodes.

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1 14. A multimedia system comprising:
2 a home media server configured to receive and store multimedia content
3 transmitted from two or more incompatible communication channels; and

4 a plurality of multimedia nodes configured to communicate with said
5 home media server over a real-time home media network,
6 wherein said home media server transmits said multimedia content to
7 said one or more multimedia nodes responsive to requests for said multimedia
8 content transmitted from said multimedia nodes.

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1 15. The system as in claim 14 wherein one of said communication channel
2 is a broadcast channel.

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1 16. The system as in claim 15 wherein another of said communication
2 channels is a packet-switched channel.

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1 17. The system as in claim 16 wherein said packet-switched channel is a
2 TCP/IP channel provided by digital subscriber line ("DSL").

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1 18. The system as in claim 16 wherein said packet-switched channel is a
2 TCP/IP channel provided by a cable modem.

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1 19. The system as in claim 15 wherein said broadcast channel is a
2 broadcast cable channel.

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1 20. The system as in claim 14 wherein said home media network is a
2 wireless network.

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1 21. The system as in claim 14 wherein one of said multimedia channels is
2 a public switched telephone network channel.

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1 22. A home media server comprising:
2 means for receiving broadcast multimedia content;
3 means for receiving packet-switched multimedia content;
4 means for converting said broadcast multimedia content and said packet
5 switched multimedia content into a standard multimedia content format; and
6 means for distributing said multimedia content in said standard format to
7 a plurality of multimedia nodes.

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1 23. The home media server as in claim 22 wherein said means for
2 distributing said multimedia content is a real-time network.

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1 24. The home media server as in claim 23 wherein said real-time network
2 is a wireless network.

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1 25. The home media server as in claim 24 wherein said wireless network
2 is based on the IEEE 802.11b network protocol.

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1 26. The home media server as in claim 22 further comprising:
2 means for storing said multimedia content for subsequent distribution to
3 said multimedia nodes.

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1 27. The home media server as in claim 22 further comprising:
2 means for receiving and transmitting audio over a public switched
3 telephone network ("PSTN").